



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
110 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 800
Lansing, MI 48913

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Contact: Harold Core (517) 241-3986

Michigan Civil Rights Commission
Names Linda V. Parker Civil Rights Director

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) today announced the appointment of Linda V. Parker as director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR). Parker replaces Nanette Lee Reynolds who is retiring after 10 years as Director of the MDCR.

“Parker’s volunteer and employment background demonstrates a consistent enthusiasm and devotion to the ideas and practices of diversity, equal opportunity, and protecting those who may be unable to protect themselves,” said Gary Torgow, Commission Chair. “Such a balanced source of experience is critical to the Department of Civil Rights, where the need to aggressively protect Michigan residents from unlawful discrimination must be matched with efforts to encourage all of Michigan to embrace the ideas of diversity and equal opportunity.”

Parker, a Detroit native, is a former partner at the Detroit law firm of Dickinson Wright PLC, where she practiced environmental law. She served on the Recruitment Committee to diversify the firm through active recruitment of law graduates and lawyers of color. Parker also served as the first Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan and as president of the Wolverine Bar Association, an organization consisting primarily of African American attorneys whose mission is to ensure “equal justice for all.” Most recently Parker served as the Director of Development at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

“Parker is a wonderful choice to head the Michigan Department of Civil Rights,” said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. “I’ve had a chance to meet Linda and I look forward to working with her. Thanks to a great working relationship between my administration and the Commission, Michigan has a strong civil rights advocate for the future.”

Unlike other state departments the governor does not appoint the director of MDCR, but is responsible for appointing the Commissioners who, in turn, appoint the director of the department.

Parker received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan in 1980. She earned her Juris Doctor degree in 1983 from the National Law Center at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Parker served for six years as chair of New Steps, an organization committed to providing services for economically disadvantaged drug users and others who are in substance abuse recovery. She also volunteered for the Women's Justice Center providing legal services for physically and emotionally abused women, and with the Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. in Washington, D.C., where she worked extensively with teen mothers and children of homeless families.